

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01186 280907Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----124228 281150Z /53
R 280800Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5780

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1186

EXDIS

FOR P UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, US
SUBJECT: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: TRIPOLI 1185, TRIPOLI 1184, TRIPOLI 1183

1. THE MEETINGS THAT CONGRESSMAN SIKES AND I HAD AUGUST 24 AND 25 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TURAYKI AND FOREIGN LIAISON HEAD SHAHATI BROUGHT TO THE FORE, MORE THAN INDICATED IN REFTELS, THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT'S FRUSTRATION WITH ITS INABILITY TO REACH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE USG. AS YOU KNOW, THEIR UN AMBASSADOR, KIKHYA, HAS WANTED TO SEE THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM QADHAFI. FONMIN TURAYKI HAS ALSO WANTED TO SEE THE SECRETARY, THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION IT DURING OUR MEETING WITH HIM, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WILL MAKE A DIRECT REQUEST FOR FEAR OF BEING REBUFFED AGAIN.

2. IN SUPPORT OF OUR EFFORT TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE HERE, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF THE SECRETARY COULD HAVE A BRIEF MEETING WITH TURAYKI DURING THE UPCOMING UNGA SESSION. I AM AWARE OF THE HEAVY DEMANDS ON HIS
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TIME IN NEW YORK. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MAY BE THE RIGHT MOMENT TO OPEN A DOOR TO THE LIBYANS WHILE THEY APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE SOVIETS AND IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH US. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT BEHIND THE DOOR WE WILL FIND AN EMPTY ROOM, BUT WE CANNOT BE SURE UNTIL WE TRY IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TRIPOL01186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-1244
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780815/aaaaamuy.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b17635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 TRIPOLI 1185, 78 TRIPOLI 1184, 78 TRIPOLI 1183
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1596741
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-LIBYAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b17635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014